



Sustainability Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
SAC COMMITTEE
December 10, 2015
CITY HALL A/B CONFERENCE ROOM**

ROLL CALL:

Pamela Fournier, Chair
George Hettich
Rich Lintz, Aldermanic Representative
Ira Berkowitz, Aldermanic Representative
Richard Marx
Alex Bornstein
Gina Nakis
Cindy Mense
Joe Miller
Brad Bernstein

ABSENT:

Stan Braude

CITY STAFF:

Dale Houdeshell, Director of Public Works
Daneen Schlereth, Recording Secretary

Pam opened the meeting at 4:30pm requesting approval of the October 15, 2015 minutes. Minutes were approved by Richard Marx and seconded by Joe Miller.

Bringing Conservation Home

Pam gave a brief summary on the Bringing Conservation Home program for the members that were not present from Mitch Leachman's presentation several meetings ago. The meeting minutes had the letter attached from City of Richmond Heights regarding the program that Pam elaborated on. She discussed the program with the committee and the committee decided to pursue the program for Clayton. The committee decided a presentation to the Board of Alderman would be

beneficial if done by Mr. Leachman. Pam said she would contact Mr. Leachman and see if he is available.

Pam introduced Catherine Werner, the Sustainability Director for the City of St. Louis. Catherine gave a short presentation on the City of St. Louis' sustainability efforts.

Catherine informed the committee the St. Louis City's Mayor Francis Slay created a Sustainability Action Agenda for the City of St. Louis to implement over the next 5 years. The Sustainability plan has three purposes:

- To make our City cleaner, safer, healthier, with less waste of energy & natural resources.
- To attract knowledgeable workers and others who want more sustainable spaces & neighborhoods.
- To make life better & easier for all citizens in the city.

The plan was the result of a two year public engagement, a collection of goals, specific objectives and direct strategies that have been identified by the residents of St. Louis.

Catherine said the city had several meetings to develop the agenda. They prioritized the ideas into the follow action agenda:

- Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology
- Arts, Culture & Innovation
- Empowerment, Diversity & Equity
- Health, Well-Being & Safety
- Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation
- Education, Training & Leadership
- Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Catherine said they developed the Sustainability Neighborhood Initiative – it had 2 parts we started first with a competition – the city was overwhelmed by the participation. We had 43 groups representing 30 of the 79 neighborhoods to win a small grant application of \$5000. The city ended up selecting 7 winners.

The second part the City created a sustainability neighborhood tool kit; we gave 27 ideas that are organized with local examples and the step by step procedures to achieve it. Again the City has had an overwhelming response.

The vision is on line and ideas can be downloaded, however the city wants to be much more inner active, the website is meant to be a living suppository of sustainability ideas.

Catherine provided the city's website for anyone that would like to look into any of the ideas that are offered. www.stlouis-mo.gov/sustainability.

Pam thanked Catherine for sharing the City's sustainability ideas and for her time.

The committee continued with a general discussion regarding some of the ideas the city has implemented.

Gina reached out to the residents on a neighborhood website - The NextDoor, asking for ideas for the sustainability committee.

Pam said one of the residents, Jessie Hoagland concerns didn't make the blog, but she wanted to bring it up in the meeting. Ms. Hoagland's post was the issue regarding the Coldwater Creek Water land issue and does Clayton have some type of plan prepared. The committee was confused regarding her concern. Gina and Pam said they are not 100% sure, they would try to find her email and send it out for us to discuss in a future meeting.

Some of the ideas discussed were

- More protected bike paths
- Plant more edibles on public properties
- Close street once a month for "Food Truck Sundays"

The committee continued with a general conversation regarding some of the ideas. I have attached a copy of Gina's hand out to the end of the minutes.

New Business

Pam asked the committee what their views were on having another speaker come and speak with the committee regarding new ideas. Pam said Stan said he had a connection with the Wash U Sustainability officer, she thought maybe he could come and give a brief overview of what they are doing. The committee thought it would be great idea.

Alex said at the Center of Clayton they have a monitor that is constantly posting energy saving tips and programs. He said it thought it would be a great idea if we posted what the city's sustainability accomplishments are. Alex said he was extremely impressed with what the city did and believes other residents would be interested to know as well.

Pam suggested we shorten the list at the center, but provide a link to the city's website to get the residents to the extended list. It was suggested also a shorter version for the City Views as well.

Alex also suggested maybe an interview with the City Views regarding the accomplishments as well.

Cindy informed the committee we forgot to add the bike friendly status and the implementation of the Trialnet.

Cindy also suggested items that are maintenance should not be considered sustainability and we should strike the last 3 items on the last page. She said she didn't think we are about sustaining roadways.

It was asked why we shouldn't consider roadways sustainable. Cindy said sustainability should be about the environment not about maintenance to the roadways, not sure how roadways improve the environment.

Alex disagreed he said he felt the information should remain because it's about extending the life of the roadway, how maintenance will have it last longer. Roadways will not have to be done as often, which means less material and labor, which is moving towards sustainability.

George felt it might need to be rephrased, with 35,000 tons of recyclable material; maybe we should sort out what is maintenance and what is sustainability. Alex said it depends on your view.

Dale believes we should take a broader look on sustainability.

Dale suggested we get back to the original question on whether or not we want Stan to contact a representative from Washington University. He said is aware of improvements on the campus and it might be useful to hear what they have been doing as well.

The committee agreed. Pam said she will get in touch with Stan for the next meeting.

Mulch Pile

Alex asked if we are going to be able to get mulch still. Dale said yes you will be able to order it from St. Louis Composting. Alex asked if the city could possibly get a machine that would bag up the mulch to make it easier on the residents.

Dale informed the mulch pile is going to be completely gone, there are some environmental issues and all future mulch deliveries will be contracted out.

Pam suggested we continue this conversation regarding the mulch pile in the next meeting.

Pam closed the meeting at 5:30pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, February 25th, 2016**

cc: June Waters, City Clerk